

This is an official
CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via the Health Alert Network
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***Serratia marcescens* blood stream infections associated with
contaminated magnesium sulfate solutions – March 2005**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has learned of 11 cases of *Serratia marcescens* (*S. marcescens*) bacteremia from two states associated with magnesium sulfate solution manufactured by Pharmedium (Lake Forest, IL) that may have been intrinsically contaminated with *S. marcescens*. In March 2005, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) was notified of a cluster of *S. marcescens* blood stream infections involving five patients hospitalized at a New Jersey health-care facility. All five patients developed sepsis caused by *S. marcescens* and had received intravenous magnesium sulfate manufactured by Pharmedium prior to illness onset. All patients responded to ciprofloxacin treatment, are well and have been discharged from the health-care facility. In an earlier outbreak in a California hospital in January 2005, 6 cases of *S. marcescens* bacteremia in cardiovascular surgery patients were identified, all of whom received magnesium sulfate manufactured by Pharmedium from a lot that differed from the implicated lot in New Jersey.

The NJDHSS laboratory recovered *S. marcescens* from an opened bag of magnesium sulfate (1 gram in 5% dextrose and water; lot # 100504900049, expiration date 4/4/05) and an unopened bag of magnesium sulfate (1 gram in 5% dextrose and water; lot # 100504900049). The patient isolates and those obtained from the bags of magnesium sulfate solution had identical antibiotic susceptibility profiles. Molecular typing to determine relatedness of the isolates is being performed by the CDC. Pharmedium provides pharmaceutical products to hospitals nationwide. CDC is working with state health departments and the Food and Drug Administration to determine the magnitude of this outbreak. Testing of other product lots is underway to determine the extent of possible contamination.

Individuals who are aware of cases of *S. marcescens* bacteremia occurring during or shortly after receipt of this product should contact their health department (see numbers listed below) and CDC at 1-800-893-0485.

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of cases or possible cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

District Public Health Offices

Mail or call reports to the District Epidemiology/Disease Reports office in each district.

Appalachia I

(Anderson, Oconee)

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 231-1966
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-298-4442

Appalachia II

(Greenville, Pickens)

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or
1-800-993-1186

Appalachia III

(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

Catawba

(Chester, Lancaster, York)

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 283-3175
Fax: (803) 283-0572
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-867-3886 or
1-(888)-739-0748

Edisto Savannah

(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 642-1619
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Edisto Savannah

(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 536-9118
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Low Country

(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)

1407 King Street
Beaufort, SC 29902
Phone: (843) 525-7603
Fax: (843) 525-7621
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

Palmetto

(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

Pee Dee

**(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon,
Florence, Marlboro, Marion)**

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Trident

(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 746-3832
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Upper Savannah

**(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood,
Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)**

PO Box 3227
1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Waccamaw

(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)

2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Wateree

(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 773-6366
Nights / Weekends: 1-(877)-831-4647

Bureau of Disease Control

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division
1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.